



# WASHRAG

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VOLUME 21 ISSUE 02  
FEBRUARY 2019

Wireless Association of South Hills

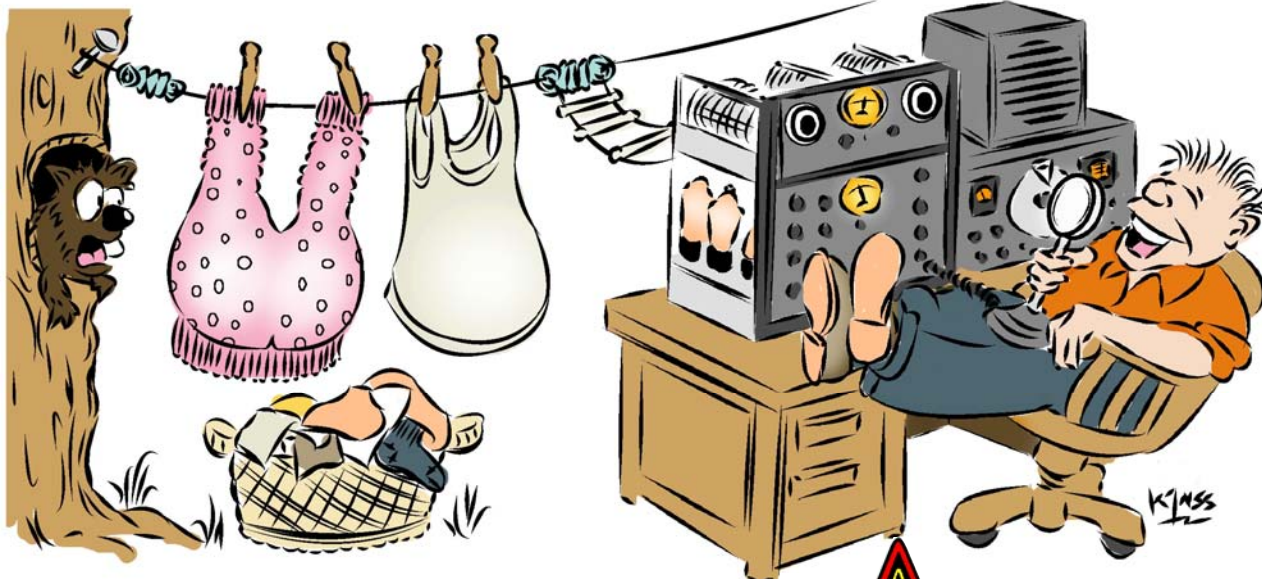
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

[www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org) [www.washarc.org](http://www.washarc.org)





# Wireless Association of South Hills



## WASHRAG™



VOLUME 21 Issue 02

FEBRUARY 2019

### Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> 2019**, in the Conference Room at the **St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park, by South Hills Village & Village Square** (map on the back page). The room is available at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be starting at 7:00 PM.

Subjects for the meeting include the **WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest** wrap-up, **WASHfest 2019**, and other upcoming plans for 2019.

See you there!

Cover Photo: Bill W3WH's  $\mu$ BITX transceiver is almost there, as he and Larry K3VX are troubleshooting it!

Cover Photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2019 Bill Hill W3WH

## WASH 2019 OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Tony Romano KB3BYA
VP / Secretary	Dan Campbell K3CMU
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

### AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH Trustee	Larry Comden K3VX
WA3SH Trustee	Rich Danko N3SBF
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B QSL Manager	Ron Notarius W3WN
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Ron Notarius W3WN
Webmaster	Curtis Turner KB3CMT
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
WASHfest 2019 Committee	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Chairman
	Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
Field Day 2019 Coordinators	Rick Bell KB3IAC
	Bill Hill W3WH

### CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

**N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet**, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every

**Monday** Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters.

All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

## THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**, a 501.C.3 not for profit organization.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners & operators of both the N3SH/R Repeaters and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

## WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

### Next WASH VE Test February 24<sup>th</sup>

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 10:00 AM**, at **WASHFest 2019**, South Park Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park, PA 15129. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

#### Pre-registration is not required. Walk-ins welcome!

But if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Ron Notarius W3WN:

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: [w3wn@n3sh.org](mailto:w3wn@n3sh.org)

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)  
 Pen / Pencil / Calculator  
 Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)  
 Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)  
 Check or Cash in the amount of \$15.00 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: **To Be Scheduled**

### Tony's Musings

February already?

**WASHFest 2019** is right around the corner so spread the word and pick up some great Valentine's presents for those loved ones! Nothing says be my Valentine like a new J-pole! (see below)

Sean N3NWR is passing the webmaster torch to Curtis KB3CMT, so lets all thank Sean for his years of service and welcome Curtis to his new Role.

See you at the March Meeting for Pizza!

— 73, Tony Romano KB3BYA  
*President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.*  
 N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/b



Members of the North Country DX Association (NCDXA) once again are on site and active from different locations in Alaska, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Greenland until February 28<sup>th</sup>.

RST call signs being used include KL7RST, VY1RST, VE8RST, VY0RST, and OX7RST.

Also look for NIRAC/KL7 which will be active from Fairbanks, Alaska. QSL all call signs direct via K7ICE.

Additional details and information on how to obtain a free RST certificate are on [K7ICE.com](http://K7ICE.com), [QSL.com](http://QSL.com) profile or visit the [NCDXA Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/NCDXA).

A cool, crisp, and slightly snowy day greeted the last Saturday in January, not that this would be enough to stop the stalwarts of the **WASH Breakfast Gang** got together, on January 26<sup>th</sup> at **Eat 'N Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19), McMurray. This month's turnout included WB4GCS, KC4WTT, N3DFK, W3WH, K3HCR, K3CMU, N3FB, KB3GMU, KB3YCX, KB3BYA & Amy, and W3WN & Julie... and we hope we didn't miss anyone! Topics of the morning included "Excess to needs" computer equipment, the remote radio committee, buffet people, "clock not set" is back (power blip at .55?), the CQ 160 CW contest, change of counties for Pa QSO 2019 (now going to Bedford), sloppy weather, "No trespassing... I have firearms and a backhoe", "circles of death", antenna analyzers, internet-ready radios, the annual Piratefest today, West Penn Powerless & Duquesne Park, working with Raspberry Pi's, µBITX coming slowly, 250 Volt batteries for backup, *Vinnies* is now Closed ("couldn't get the basics right"), Chevy Volt vs. Chevy Bolt... and a whole lot more!

Our next gathering of the Gang will be on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, returning to the **Eat 'N Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray (the "new" restaurant that was recently built), officially starting at **8:00 AM**. While we don't need a "head count" to reserve tables as we've previously done, **please** let Jim WB4GCS know ahead of time if you are planning on coming... if you don't, though and decide at the last minute, we'll have plenty of room for you! See you there?

Considering that this is also the "setup day for **WASHFest 2019**, there will also be a gathering at the South Park **Eat 'N Park**, 5220 Library Road, also officially starting at **8:00 AM**. Immediately after breakfast, we'll head to the Home Economics and start arranging tables and such.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's **WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest**. All logs submitted by the deadline have been scored, the results are on Page 12.

**WASHFest 2019** is only a few weeks away as of deadline. This is the time when the table reservations start coming in, people start calling Carol for more information, and so on. Carol will have more information at the meeting, suffice to say we will need a little help on Saturday setting up and arranging tables, on Sunday in key areas like checking in vendors before the doors open, taking tickets, selling 50/50, help in the kitchen... those of you who've been to our little event before, or helped out at other hamfests in the past know the drill. All we ask is that everyone pitch in where and when they can. If everyone does, things go smoothly, and everyone has fun. Over the years, we've developed a reputation for being one of the best hamfests in the region; that's a good reputation to hand, one worth keeping!

One area that was a small difficulty last year was talk-in. Clearly the keeping the antenna indoors did not work well (even though it did the first year at South Park), and there are no guarantees we'll be able to prop a door or window open to run coax outside. (We got lucky on the weather last year, but we can't count on that). It's doubtful that the County will let us drill a hole for coax somewhere, as well! We may need a volunteer or two to run the talk-in either from a parked vehicle, or from home if they can't make it to the site. Give it some thought and let us know if you can help with that.

We will also need to impose on some of the club VE's for the testing session. We may have a dozen or so candidates, and if we can split the candidates into two or three groups at a time, we should be able to limit an individual's VE's time commitment to about a half hour or so apiece. Please see Ron W3WN if you think you can help out.

**Thanks to Sean N3NWR**, who has served as our master Webmaster for several years now. Work commitments means that he has had to reluctantly relinquish the position, but we want him to know how much his hard work has been appreciated. And **congratulations to Curtis KB3CMT**, who will be taking on his tasks as **our new Webmaster**.



See Tony's Comments Above!

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 17



## Minutes, January 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Call to Order: 19:01 hours; Presiding Officer: Tony Romano (KB3BYA)

Pledge of Allegiance; Moment of Silence (Remembering Silent Keys & Others)

Introductions

Number of Members Present: 18; Guest(s): David Rice (K6DWR)

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer: Mark Stabryla (N3RDV): Report read and accepted

Secretary: Dan Campbell (K3CMU)

Motion to Accept / Waive Reading of the Minutes: Motion By: Carol (KB3GMN)

Seconded by: Ron (W3WN). Passed: Y; Unanimous

Correspondence: None

Volunteer Examiners: Ron Notarius (W3WN): Next VE Exam will be offered at **WASHFest**, February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Repeaters: Frank Bobro (N3FB), Issues?: No; Sent electric bill to Tony Romano

WASHNet: Chuck (K3CELA): **WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest**; the mailing address is now corrected.

Contests: Larry Comden (K3VX): Absent

Public Service: Bob Timmins (AB3ED): Absent

**WASHFest 2019** – Carol (KB3GMN): **February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019**: 12 tables are reserved; 4 tables are paid; prizes are being received; 1/2 & 1/2 tickets & door prize tickets are in hand; volunteer sign-up sheet available at the next meeting; set-up will be on Friday at 10:00 am (after breakfast).

Membership Contributions: Carol (KB3GMN): Gratefully being accepted.

Newsletter: Ron (W3WN): Thank you contributors!

Ways & Means: Carol (KB3GMN): No report

President's Report: Tony (KB3BYA) No report

Old Business: Generators – Jim (WG4GCS) is looking for a decent weekend;

Consumer Reports published an article indicating that Harbor Freight generators were competitive, in terms of quality, with Yamaha generators.

New Business:

Bill (W3WH) – submitted a motion that the club should consider establishment of a "Remote HF Site" to accommodate members who might be "antenna challenged" (those who live, or will live, in apartments where antennas are not feasible). A site would have to be selected and members would have to log-in. An exploratory committee Bill (W3WH) & Curtis (KB3CMT) was established to look into this; Seconded by: Dan (K3CMU). Passed Unanimously.

Glen (KE7FD): suggested that the club have a "frequency check night" to ensure good reception from the repeaters. Tony (KB3BYA) commented that there appears to be one using 442.55. Ron (W3WN) stated that the club could tie the 440 repeater to 995 to establish a much larger footprint. (Not Identified) commented that it might be convenient to link all three of the club's repeaters to enhance reception and transmissions over the repeaters. Frank (N3FB) and Jim (WB4GCS) will look into this and make recommendations.

Glen (KE7FD): noted that there are several people in his church congregation that have Technician licenses but are not using them. We would like to use the club's repeaters to encourage use of licenses and upgrading to General licensure. Initial activity would occur on nights other than the scheduled Monday Nets but could eventually migrate to Monday Nets. Mike (WA3PYU) moved to approve Glen's request; Jim (WB4GCS) 2<sup>nd</sup>; passed.

Jim (WB4GCS) suggested that the club use the tower trailer to effect a moon bounce (satellite) transmission event.

Mark (N3RDV): suggested a by-laws change to exempt current officers from having to submit membership dues. David (K6DWR) read the club's bylaws which indicate that a letter must be submitted to the Vice President / Secretary requesting a by-laws change and the requested change must be considered over two(?) months and then approved by 3/4 of the membership.

Harold (K3HCR) asked if an annual audit needs to be done in light of the fact that the club is a 501(c)(3) corporation.

Carol (KB3GMN): congratulated Curtis (KB3CMT) who will assume the position of the club's Web Master.

Frank (N3FB) thanked the club for letter of condolences with the passing of his mother and the donation on her behalf.

Rich Danko (N3SBF): reminded the members about the Steel City Winter Field Day event on January 26 & 27, 2019, <https://www.winterfieldday.com/>

Good of the Order:

MOTION TO ADJOURN: By: Carol (KB3GMN)

Seconded by: Bill (W3WH)

Meeting Adjourned: 20:14 hours

## WASH Spotlight: Help



Dan K3CMU and Curtis KB3CMT, assisting WB4GCS while test the Honda Inverter Generator on January 12<sup>th</sup>. One of the items used as a test load is on the bench behind them.

See page 7 for the story!

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2018 Jim Sanford WB4GCS

Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3shdotorg)

## Monthly WASH Breakfast



Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!

Join us this month at **Eat'n Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19), McMurray. Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.659 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!

## Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

2019	WA3PYU	KC3GMM	WASH FL	WASH TN	Silent Keys
K3CMU	WA3VSS	KC3KMY	KA3UPY/M	K3OL	
K3GW	WB4GCS	KE7FD	W4ZE	KE3XB	AB3KA
K3HCR		N0VLR	WASH NE	N3YPB	K3EED
K6DWR	AA3GM	N1NCZ	N0PEU	WASH TX	K3LIE
KA3VXM	AA3XY	N2QIV	WASH OR	NB3C	KA3NMG
KA3CMT	AB3ED	N3BPB	KB3NVL	K3LGM	KB3ENX
KB3DCO	AB3NM	N3KFD	KB3NVM	KB3IJX	KB3FNM
KB3GMN	AE3DL	N3RDV	WASH OH	Jane Wagner	KB3FQT
KB3GMU	K3JDS	N7TDX	N8DPW	WASH VI	KB3JHQ
KB3JHR	K3SGT	NU3Q		NP2JF	N3CZZ
KC3ELA	K3VX	NY9H			N3FZ
KC3MLC	K3WJL	W3BBX			N3HKQ
KC4WTT	KB3BYA	W3WN			N3KEH
N3DFK	KB3ERQ	WA3JFL			N3OBD
N3FB	KB3IAC	WB3CAI			N3RNX
N3RDG	KB3IVX	WO3Z			N3SKR
N3SBF	KB3ORO	Barbara			N3SRC
N3ZK	KB3SQZ	Udren			N3ZEL
W3WH	KB3YCX				N3XFE

If your call should be listed here & isn't, please contact Mark N3RDV

Through January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019  
List compiled by  
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

# 2019 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

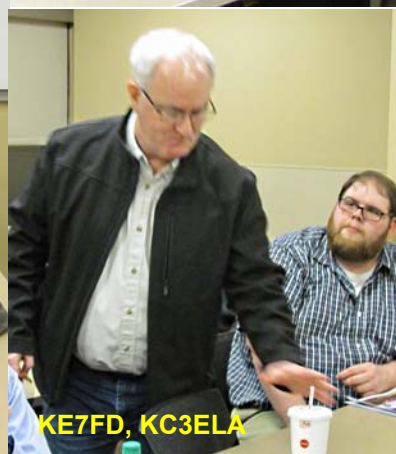
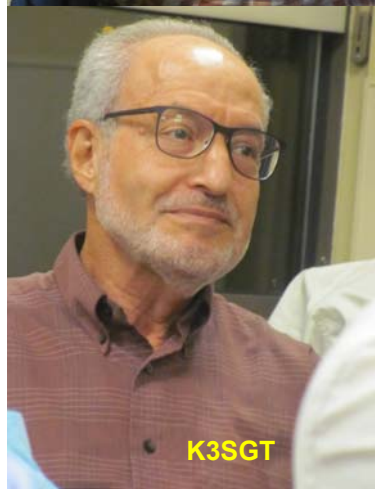
*Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change*

February 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WASH</b> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave Contest CW	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.org">http://www.breezeshooters.org</a>
February 16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL International DX CW	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
February 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WASHFest 2018</b> <b>WASH VE Exams at WASHFest</b>	Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park 
March 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup>	ARRL International DX SSB	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WASH</b> Meeting & Pizza Night	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Breezeshooter's Groundwave Contest Phone	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.org">http://www.breezeshooters.org</a>
March 30 <sup>th</sup> — 31 <sup>st</sup>	CQ WPX Contest SSB	<a href="http://www.cqwpix.com">http://www.cqwpix.com</a>
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WASH</b> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Two Rivers ARC 2019 Hamfest	<a href="#">The Boston Spectrum</a> , 6001 Smithfield Street, Boston, PA
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>WASH</b> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
May 17 <sup>th</sup> — 19 <sup>th</sup>	DARA Hamvention	Greene County Fairgrounds & Expo Center, <a href="#">Xenia, OH</a>
May 25 <sup>th</sup> — 26 <sup>th</sup>	CQ WPX Contest CW	<a href="http://www.cqwpix.com">http://www.cqwpix.com</a>
June 1 <sup>st</sup> — 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	<a href="http://www.breezeshooters.org">http://www.breezeshooters.org</a>
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WASH</b> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
June 8 <sup>th</sup> — 10 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL June VHF Contest	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Kid's Day	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
June 22 <sup>nd</sup> — 23 <sup>rd</sup>	ARRL Field Day	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>



*"Seen" at the January Meeting*

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN





# Inverter Generator Testing

Jim Sanford WB4GCS

**Initiation Date:** 12 January 2019

**Participant(s):** WB4GCS, KB3CMT, K3CMU

**Initial Symptoms:** Want to test inverter generator for possible mounting and use on N3SH tower trailer for contingency emergency operations.

**Actions:** Establish test setup.

**Inverter Generator:** Honda 3 kW Model EU3000is

**Instrumentation:** TEK 2465BP Oscilloscope with 200 MHz probes

Sweep & Amplitude: Auto

Top line to Channel A

Bottom line to Channel B

Channel B Inverted

Display A + B (which yields the *difference* between A and B)

VOM – Radio Shack 22-194 Digital Multimeter

Baofeng UV5R-V2 Dual Band FM (RF noise detector)

Note: FM receiver less sensitive than an all-mode is acknowledged; my IC-R10 let the smoke out.

**Test Plan:** Measure frequency, voltage and RF noise:

- ◆ No load
- ◆ Resistive loads
- ◆ Inductive loads
- ◆ Resistive and inductive loads

Loads:

- ◆ 1500 W Heater
- ◆ 1800 W Toaster Oven
- ◆ ¼ HP (186 W) Grinder (Inductive Load)

**Observations:** No load:

Ambient audible noise: 79.5 db@ 1 foot, 72.8 db@ 6 feet (80 db requires hearing protection per OSHA)

Idiot light check: SAT.

$V_{open\ circuit} = 124.5$  (Measured at points C & D in above diagram)

$V_{AB} = 1.375$

**Waveform:**

Looks OK, but upon closer examination (Figure 1), more of a triangle than sine with noise. Worst is the spikes -200 - 300 volts. The noise amplitude is 500 mV, with a period of 10  $\mu$ Sec—100 kHz frequency.

Apply load 1, 1500 Watt Heater (Figure 2): Ugly—noise and spikes

Apply load 2, 1800 Watt toaster oven (Figure 3): Barely recognizable sine wave with 200 Volt spikes.

Apply ¾ HP Inductive load (Bench Grinder)(Figure 4):

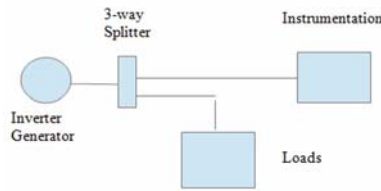
**Analysis:** Very noisy, many spikes, not a sine wave at all.

**Hypothesis:** This thing may have been abused and damaged.

**Conclusion:** I would not connect this to anything other than a brute force linear battery charger or large UPS – certainly nothing sensitive.

All photos and illustrations courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 James A. Sanford PE, WB4GCS

A copy of this article as a separate document can be found on the N3SH website



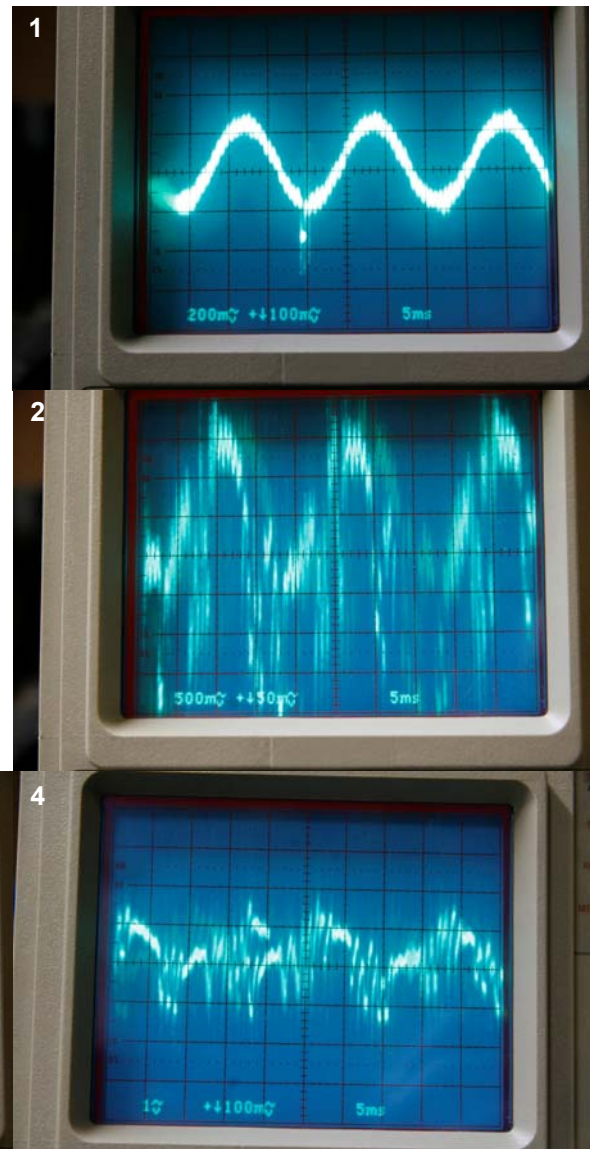
Test Setup



Inverter Generator



Instrumentation



# The MacGyver'd Harbor Freight 80-10 Meter Vertical

Glen Roberts KE7FD    Photos & SWR Graph © Copyright 2019 Glen Roberts KE7FD

Clairton, PA, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 —To begin with, I like to tinker with antennas, so what better to tinker with than a flagpole vertical? As it turns out I needed a 75-meter antenna so I set out coming up with something that would not just be a super compromised vertical like a lot of the common 1/8<sup>th</sup> wave verticals on the market but something as close to a quarter-wave as I could get. That would mean some type of loading to get the extra radiator employed. I also had an SGC tuner that I needed to put to work and since I'm a firm believer in tuning antennas at the antenna and not the coax to the antenna, here was my chance. Note: I opted to stay away from base loading the vertical because who likes encountering a lump of high inductance exiting the coax? I'd rather radiate a bit before the lump is hit then radiate some more. So, this needed to be a vertical with a loading coil in the upper half instead of the base. If I got anything beyond 80 meters, then that would be icing on the cake; nice but not required.

I found that Harbor Freight sells a 20-foot flagpole, all aluminum which seemed like a good place to start. My local store had one which had been returned, minus a few incidental parts which would not encumber my "design" since like MacGyver, things just seem to happen.

"You can do a lot in a year." – MacGyver

Yeah, it took that long, because my dog needed to be walked, but mostly because I already had a working 40-10-meter dipole (which btw, has been fixed to work on 80, oh well...), and I just wasn't overly motivated to dive into yet another project. That being said though, this one came together rather quickly and shouldn't take too long to build another if I had to.

What you'll need:

- 1 – Harbor Freight flagpole
  - 1 – 2 ft section of 6-inch PVC pipe
  - 1 – insulating section (Delrin rod, etc. eBay)
  - 1 – chunk of wire like 43 feet for the coil
  - 1 – Ruffles potato chips & bean dip
  - 1 – Tuner of your choice be it a remote automatic or something out of the Handbook
- Some: 1-inch braid, self-tapping sheet metal screws.

If you decide to top the whole thing off with a capacity hat, like I did, you'll need more stuff for that including an aluminum disc 1/2" thick, 3-4 inches in diameter (eBay), aluminum rods (Home Depot or Lowes). There're many places to just buy capacity hats too. Just know that building vs., buying isn't always a great cost saver....

Here's a picture of the underside of the capacity hat hub with a few spokes in place. Note the cutout for the flagpole top section to sit in. The spokes only go in about an inch where from the top a stainless-steel screw is used to keep the spokes from falling out.

The capacity hat then has a bushing that holds a "stinger" whip with a nice static ball atop. The hat is held in place by a stainless eyebolt that is passed through a bold in the tope section, pulled tight by two nuts, then the bushing to that holds the whip. I chose to tie the ends together of the spokes but there are lots of hats without that feature.

The flagpole as sold is made of 5 sections. The loading coil is between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> sections.

To construct the coil, I marked every half inch then notched the PVC pipe, front and back to lay the wire in as I wound.

A better way would have been to trace a spiral slot with a half inch spacing for 13 inches. As you can see from the photo, there are 26 turns, consuming about 42 feet of wire. I painted the coil with non-metallic paint to help keep the turns in place over time. The coil is mounted over the insulating section between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> aluminum sections. I used Delrin rod although anything that has the right diameter can be used. If using wooden rods, make sure the grain is completely sealed with multiple layers against the elements.

Instead of relying on the friction joint of the flagpole to keep it from collapsing, I used stainless sheet metal screws along with braid to provide a solid mechanical joint as well as electrical connectivity.

## Put it together

Somewhere I have pictures of the tuner attached at the base and of the handful of radials, but need to locate where those were stored. In any case, the entire antenna stands around 26 feet tall, easily stood up by one person then strapped to a buried and treated 4x4. I initially did not guy the antenna but decided to put 3 rope guys on before the bad weather hit. I think I'm glad I did.

How does it tune? 80-10 meters with ratios ranging from 1.0:1 to 2.6:1 as read from the radio. It meets my basic requirement of working on most of 80 meters, with usability on the other bands. 40 and 15 meters are higher (not surprising), but the dipole has those bands covered anyway.

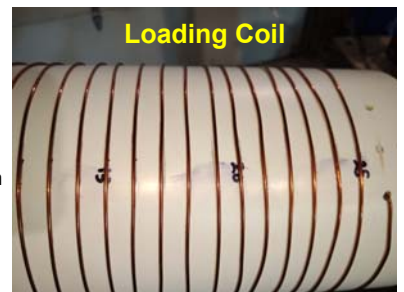
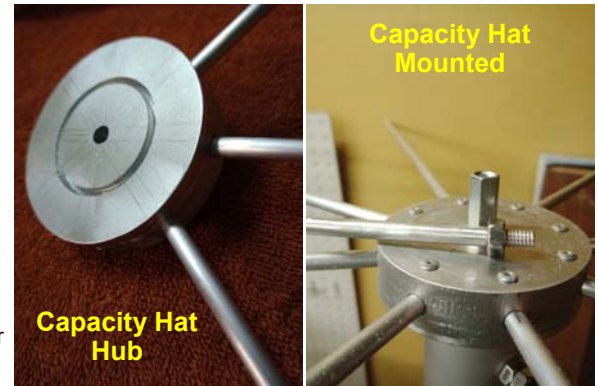
A word about the tuner: An SGC-237 housed inside an inverted plastic pale at the base, is powered with a constant 12v while in use, fed directly from a 12v wall wart a few feet away, inside my shed. This approach avoids the locking problem so common with [this] remote tuners.

There're just a few radials at this point with more planned in the spring. I believe the SWR will flatten as radials are added.

How does it play? Getting a solid picture of that image will take time of course, but so far, I've worked into Maryland and Ohio with it on 75 meters.

Again, this is just a proof of concept that should inspire others to use whatever is handy or easily obtained to get on whatever band is needed, perhaps other bands. Overall, this was cheaper to build than its commercial counterparts but like I said I took a long time to piece it together. I also think it's better than base loaded antennas which suffer from an initial lump of impedance at the feed point, though the compromise is that the higher a coil is placed in a radiator, the larger the inductor needs to be.

Given the right motivation something like this can be slapped together in a few days around jobs, chores and dog walking.





# Announcing the YARC Youth Contesting Program

Sterling Mann NØSSC, YARC Programs & Outreach Dude

St. Louis, MO, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 — On behalf of the Young Amateurs Radio Club (YARC) I'm pleased to announce the Youth Contesting Program!

YARC's Youth Contesting Program (YCP) is an experimental weekend program for groups of young amateur radio contesters throughout the US and Canada to meet up at a nearby-as-possible "big gun stations" during the 2019 CQ World-Wide WPX Contest taking place 30-31 March 2019. It will hopefully enable a new dimension of the hobby to young hams who have contested a little before, and set a new precedent for the welcoming of a new generation of radiosport aficionados.



It works like this – we will attempt to pair a small group (up to 4) of young contesters interested in operating with a "big gun" station owner interested in hosting the youth group. The contesters will operate from the station, and the host has the option to help the youth improve their skills, provide advice, and even operate alongside. We will try to keep it such that young hams will only require a relatively short drive (ideally no more than 5 hours) to keep travel costs low. As such, this will require the participation of as many operators and hosts as possible, but it might so happen that a valid match may not exist. We will try our best and work to make this a better program in the future!

YARC YCP is inspired by the efforts of YOTA's YCP <<https://www.ham-yota.com/youth-contesting-program/>>, as well as Team Exuberance <<https://www.gofundme.com/team-exuberance>> and we hope to inspire a big chunk of young hams into becoming the greatest contesters of the 21st century.

If you're a young ham (or know a young ham) (under age 27 or so) with at least a little bit of contesting experience, and you'd be interested in spending 30-31 March (CQ World-Wide WPX SSB) at a contest-grade ham radio station, OR if you're the owner of such a contest-grade station, sign up at the Google form here: <https://yarc.world/yrcp/>

Note – because we're trying to keep costs low by making this a drivable event for our young ops, we can't promise that you'll be selected as a host or operator, especially if either no young ops sign up nearby your station or there's no station near young operators. Since this is our first try, we probably have a lot to learn about this, so bear with us!

## AMSAT Announces 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Space Symposium

AMSAT News Service

The 2019 AMSAT 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium will be held at The Hilton Arlington in Arlington, VA, in the Washington, DC Metro Area on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

The Hilton Arlington is located in the heart of the Ballston neighborhood of Arlington, VA. Connected to the Ballston Metro Station, the hotel offers easy and effortless access to Washington, DC's top tourist destinations like the National Mall, Smithsonian museums and historic monuments. The hotel is six miles from Reagan National Airport and the National Mall.

The AMSAT Board of Directors Meeting will be held at the hotel on October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Tours of the Washington DC / Baltimore area will be held Sunday and Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The banquet speakers will celebrate AMSAT long history, so please plan on attending the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium, you will be glad you did.

Keep checking ANS and the AMSAT Website for further updates and information, including hotel reservation details.

### European Astro Pi Challenge 2018/19: Mission Zero

Mission Zero offers students and young people the chance to have their computer programs run in space on the ISS! Teams write a simple program to display a message to the astronauts onboard.

You don't need special equipment or coding skills, and all participants that follow the rules are guaranteed to have their programs run in space. You will also receive a special certificate showing where exactly the ISS was when your program ran!

The deadline to submit entries for the Astro Pi Mission Zero challenge is 20 March 2019.

More information at: <https://astro-pi.org/missions/>

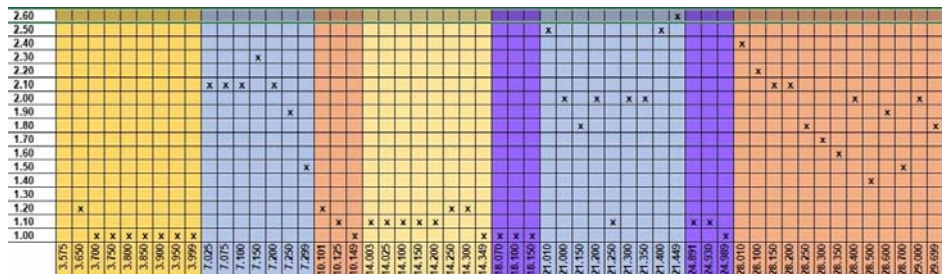


Rick KB3IAC distributing his excess wire post-meeting (KE7FD photo)



Ron W3WN has recently been mistaken for Pittsburgh Pirates Pitching Coach Ray Seerage. Can you tell which one is which?

Photo courtesy of & © 2019 Julie Notarius



SWR Chart for the "MacGyver" Vertical (story on Page 8)

# ARRL Board of Directors Issues Statement on Amateur Radio Parity Act

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 24<sup>th</sup> 2019 — At its annual meeting January 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> the ARRL Board of Directors decided that the organization needs to “review, re-examine, and reappraise ARRL’s regulatory and legislative policy with regard to private land use restrictions.”

In order to effectively undertake such a review, the Board adopted a resolution to withdraw its December 18 [Petition for Rule Making](#) to the FCC, which sought to amend the Part 97 Amateur Service rules to incorporate the provisions of the Amateur Radio Parity Act (ARPA), without prejudice to refiling. The resolution also is asking members of Congress who had refiled legislation to enact the Amateur Radio Parity Act (ARPA) to refrain from seeking to advance that legislation pending further input from the ARRL.

Board members noted that the ARRL has been pursuing adoption of the ARPA for the past several years, and that objective has not yet been achieved. While everyone understands that getting Congressional approval on any matter can be a lengthy process, the difficulties getting the ARPA approved have been a source of frustration to the organization and its members. A majority of the Board now believes that there is a need to reassess the organization’s approach to this issue.

The Board wants to make clear to its members, and to those whose policies and conduct prevent or impair the right of US Amateur Radio operators to operate from their homes, that this pause is not, and should not be interpreted as an abandonment of its efforts to obtain relief from private land-use restrictions. The Board noted that its intent is “to renew, continue and strengthen the ARRL’s effort to achieve relief from such restrictions.” This action represents a chance to get the best product possible for all US Amateur Radio operators.

The Board expressed its sincere appreciation to the thousands of ARRL members who took the time to contact their representatives in Congress to urge them to support the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The Board also offered its thanks to those members of Congress who have consistently and continuously supported the rights of US Amateur Radio operators.



## OPDX Bulletin Mailing List Starting Over From Scratch After Server Hack

Tedd Mirgliotta KB8NW, Editor, OPDX Bulletin

Strongsville, OH, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 -- On January 11<sup>th</sup>, the server that I have been using since the late 80's, HAMNET.org, was hacked and wiped. The OPDX Mailing List (as well as others), my E-mails and automatic feeds were lost. My E-mail address is now no more.

The OPDX Mailing List is now in LIMBO, and I was told that the server HAMNET.org is probably gone for good. So PLEASE pass the word around about the OPDX Mailing List.

I know this is going to be a big disappointment for the subscribers as well as it has been for me, but after almost 29 years I am considering to possibly retire from writing the bulletin. I will take some time to think about it in the next few weeks, and possibly try to find a new host for the mailing list.

**Update January 21<sup>st</sup>** – As mentioned last week, on January 11<sup>th</sup>, the server that I have been using since the late 80's, HAMNET.org, was hacked and wiped. The OPDX Mailing List (as well as others), my E-mails and automatic feeds were lost. My E-mail address kb8nw@barf80.nshore.org is now no more.

PLEASE, only send info to [kb8nw@hotmail.com](mailto:kb8nw@hotmail.com) or [kb8nw@arri.net](mailto:kb8nw@arri.net).

I want thank Bill, NG3K (Web Master of NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX Page <https://www.ng3k.com/>), and Mauro, I1JQJ (Editor of 425 DX News), for their help in getting the word out about the E-mail changes and the status of the OPDX Mailing List.

**Update January 28<sup>th</sup>** -- Good news and bad news. The OPDX Mailing List is back up and running.

However, we are starting from scratch, and only very few E-mail addresses have been added.

The new Mail List does not have an automatic subscriber feature and you will have to E-mail me a request to be added. I request patience because this is a new system/server for me and I have to learn how to use it.

My E-mail address (kb8nw@barf80.nshore.org) is now back online, but I only plan to use it as a secondary address. PLEASE, PLEASE, only send Mail List request and DX info to ([kb8nw@hotmail.com](mailto:kb8nw@hotmail.com)) or ([kb8nw@arri.net](mailto:kb8nw@arri.net)). Also, PLEASE pass the word around.

Just a reminder, you can still obtain the OPDX Bulletins via the OPDX Web page (provided by John, K8YSE) [[www.papays.com/opdx.html](http://www.papays.com/opdx.html)], QRZ.com (under Forums; News; Special Events, Contests.. etc.), several DX Mailing Lists, and three different UseNet Groups ([rec.radio.amateur.info](http://rec.radio.amateur.info), [rec.radio.amateur.misc](http://rec.radio.amateur.misc), [rec.radio.amateur.dx](http://rec.radio.amateur.dx)). The weekly bulletin (issue #) is also posted (from the OPDX Web page URL) on the NODXA FaceBook [<https://www.facebook.com/NorthernOhioDxAssociation/>] and Twitter [[https://twitter.com/kb8nw\\_opdx](https://twitter.com/kb8nw_opdx)]



Moab, which is a funny little desert town in Utah, has a great Mexican restaurant. The Fiesta Mexicana, on Main. Great Mexican food! But to get there you have to cross Main Street, it is an uncontrolled intersection (No stop signs or traffic lights) there are a bunch of orange flags (10" x 10") on sticks attached to the light post.

There is a sign there directing you to grab a flag and make for the other side of the road. (Like they used to have a flag man go ahead of the first autos to prevent scaring the horses).

So after my XYL, Sharon NØOPM, and I successfully got across Main Street waving our flags, then I saw a guy across the street who had 2 flags.

So I waved (Flagged) at him, he took his and waved back. I did some semaphore signals and he mimicked my signals back, then I tried Morse Wig-Wag and he reflected my signal back to me, he didn't know what I was sending but we had a big ending of laughing and flagging...

I have never seen a town that requires you to use signal flags to get across the street!

If you forgot the procedure: Dots are to your right. See: <http://science-notebook.com/gilbert-signal01.html>

I have never seen a town that requires you to use signal flags to get across Main Street.

Now Woodland Park, Colorado, has them too! Stop at Arby's and check them out.

See if you can stop Hwy 24 (40 MPH) traffic with a small orange flag. — Paul Signorelli WØRW





# Changes at the ARRL (ARRL SW Division Director Speaks & Gives Update)

Virgil Silhanek K7VZ

Phoenix, AZ, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Fresh off his trip to the ARRL Board of Directors' meeting in Newington, ARRL Southwest Division Director Dick Norton N6AA presented to a large crowd at the QuartzFest ARRL Specialty Convention in the Arizona desert on January 25<sup>th</sup>. His talk highlighted major changes in direction by the ARRL Board.

- + ARRL Board has revoked the sanctions and the Code of Conduct actions against its Directors. (\*)
- + Volunteer Monitor program. The FCC wants VM's to be better qualified and be able to get results when problems arise. The Official Observer program had worked on our end, but nobody was paying attention at the FCC. The new VM program is about to be rolled-out and previous OO's will be given first priority.
- + QSL Bureau charges will be returned to being a membership benefit. The ARRL will stop trying to run it for profit.
- + National Traffic System. Many groups have split off to become the Radio Relay International. The damage has been done, but the new ARRL board would like to mend ties.
- + ARES – ARRL will allow each section to set the "rules" and adapt, since some sections organize ARES based on counties, while others operate under hospital layouts. The ARES program in each section will be the ultimate call of the Section Manager (along with SEC and DEC's). They will be allowed to accommodate local requirements. The ARRL EC- course fees will be dropped, allowing ARES members to be able to take these for free.
- + The ARRL petition to the FCC for Technicians to gain more HF privileges was discussed, but there is no real update at this time.
- + The ARRL Web site revamp is underway, including a new Life Long Learning program. The issue is that there are 30k new hams annually, but ARRL only gets 17% to join and only half of those renew after the first year. The ARRL really want to focus on new hams and they are brainstorming how to appeal to these folks, providing a resource where all hams can turn to for answers and Elmer help.
- + In membership growth discussions with the forum attendees, it was proposed that the ARRL should offer a discount to first time members. They also discussed various membership incentives for older hams as well as life-membership discount concepts. The ARRL used to offer a 5-year renewal discount, but now only offers up to 3 years. Requests were to bring back the 5-year option. It was suggested that the IEEE offers free lifetime membership if years of paid membership plus age is greater than 100. Could the ARRL adopt a similar program?
- + Many Hams have started YouTube channels with training on amateur radio. David Casier KEØOG suggested the ARRL work with these folks to contribute to a ARRL Life Long Learning portal as was mentioned above. Director Norton agreed that the ARRL should look into pursuing this.
- + The status and issues with the acceptance of the Amateur Radio Parity Act was discussed. The ARRL has reversed its stance on much of the proposed recommendations, and has withdrawn its proposal to have the FCC incorporate the provisions of ARPA into its rulings.



Overall, Dick presented a message that the current Board is working for the membership. They are there to serve us as best as they can.

(\*) This has also been confirmed by new ARRL Hudson Division Director Ria Jairam N2RJ in a January 28<sup>th</sup> post on the QRZ.COM forums

*Special thanks to Rich DiDonna NN3W for initially providing us with an earlier version of this article, and for putting us in touch with K7VZ to get the updated information.*

## Maintaining the Information Barrier

Scuttlebutt Sailing News

Scuttlebutt Sailing News website, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 – Did the leaders in an international around-the-world sailing race illegally use Amateur Radio in contravention with the rules?

The 2018 Golden Globe Yacht Race started on July 1<sup>st</sup>. It consists of 17 skippers circumnavigating the globe, alone and without outside assistance beyond very limited contact as defined in the rules. It is expected to last 9 to 10 months. (See <http://goldenglobetrace.com/ggr> for more information on the race itself)

This year's race is a celebration of the "Sir Robin Knox-Johnston's historic 1968/9 world first solo non-stop circumnavigation" first run 50 years ago. To keep with the concept of the original race being run during the "golden age" of yacht racing, competitors are limited to production sailing yachts designed prior to 1988, similar in concept to the Knox-Johnston vessel.

In addition, competitors are limited to technology that was available 50 years ago, but nothing more modern, which eschews satellite navigation, computers, GPS, satellite phones and other 'modern' conveniences. "They will be navigating with sextant on paper charges, without electronic instruments or autopilots."

The technology limits do permit the use of Amateur Radio by the sailors. But according to the "Scuttlebutt Sailing News" website, some of them, including the two leaders, appear to be operating without Amateur Radio licenses.

According to the article on <https://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2019/01/21/maintaining-information-barrier/>, "The skippers have been using this free communication system to gain weather forecasts and maintain contact with their teams, which is allowed under the Race Rules. However, it is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that they abide by National and International regulations which Jean-Luc Van Den Heede (above) and Mark Slats, in first and second in the race, have not been doing."

The warning from Race Chairman Don McIntyre continued "You use an amateur callsign and are making connections with amateur radio operators. The call sign letters are not registered, and thus illegal. I ask you to stop. If you have a legal amateur callsign then I urge you to present it."

Following the warning, additional accusations of potential rules violations "began to fly" between the two leader's camps.

Warning notices were also issued to the two skippers for using unlicensed callsigns by Dutch and St. Lucia radio authorities. Along with these warnings came reminders that "Licensed Ham radio operators who communicate with them not only face losing their license, but the threat of a large fine and possible prison sentence.

Ultimately, the French GGR Amateur Radio network was informed to send "relevant" weather information only to the two competitors in the race who hold valid Ham Radio licenses.

(As this is being written, the two leaders are within 100 nautical miles of the finish line.)

**GOLDEN°GL°BE°RACE2018**



Photo courtesy of Scuttlebutt Sailing News

# Results, 2019 WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest

Chuck Bihun III KC3ELA, Contest Chair

Mobile Stations			
Call	Last Name	First Name	Score
KC3GMM	Suehr	Nathan	2457
KC3HJP	McCormick	Curt	2394
KB3BYW	Sylvestar	Ross	1242
KB3VSP	Grazulis	Dan	143
N3BPB	Kristoff	William E	4

Fixed Stations			
Call	Last Name	First Name	Score
KA3KSP	Grazulis	Jim	945
N3OVO	Graham	John	396
WB4GCS	Sanford	Jim	49
W3LZR	Berwick	Jim	28
KC3MGP	Dordal	Paul	20
WO3X	Grazulis	John	12
AB1A	Christeson	Michael	3

Thank you for participating in our little contest! I'm still fairly new to this position, so if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please drop me a line at [charles.bihun@gmail.com](mailto:charles.bihun@gmail.com).

This contest was designed to be low-stress, with only good clean operating fun in mind. I sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed themselves, as well as got to test the limits of their equipment, and maybe even met some friends along the way!

Make sure you spread the word about the contest, as the more people we have participating next year, the more fun it'll be!

I hope to receive your logs again next year, hope to hear you on the air, and hope to see you at **WASHFest!**



We didn't have any pictures from this year, so we dug up one from 2002!

## The Inverted Hell Antenna (Mother Nature Gets Back At Me)

Randy Cook K6CRC

Los Altos, CA, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 – I have been a Ham for about a decade now. Not counting my very short time as a Novice in High School in the 70s. Pre-empted by a car and a girlfriend. Left no money for a ham rig. Cars can do that, and girlfriends WILL do that.

Sorry I digress, back to Ham radio... When I FINALLY got my General back in 2007, I faced the decision about a permanent antenna. Having a small lot on the edge of the Santa Cruz mountains, my options are limited.

I started with a couple of end-feds between my roof and the 50 foot tall Redwood trees at the back of my yard. Limited my bands, but they got me on the air. With sunspots on my side, I worked the world.

One day, my neighbor in the back mentioned the retaining wall we share as a fence seems to be bending a bit. That wall is what keeps my yard and the Redwood trees from landing in her living room. And inspection was performed - the conclusion was the beautiful trees, and my antenna supports, had to go. In California, dropping a couple of big trees subjects you to all kinds of criticism, even protests, from those who see other living things as more important than people.

My little old lady neighbor down the street, the one with all those cats and that beat up Volvo, was shocked as the Arborist removed 'those children of the Mother Nature'. Even reminding her what a couple of mature trees would do to my 'Mother Neighbor' if they fell didn't dissipate her anger. 'She gets HER revenge, you know!' as she wagged a finger at me.

Back to the antenna plan. I asked a lot of people on forums and such for suggestions. The most popular recommendation was to try an Inverted L. I could put a SpiderPole in one corner of the lot, and run the horizontal wire across the yard to a smallish tree near my other neighbor's fence.

With the Redwoods removed, the back yard was re-landscaped. Simple matter to put down conduit for a long coax run to the SpiderPole from my rig. The design would have 30 foot vertical and as much as 60 feet horizontal sections, and I could lay down a dozen radials, but only in a 110 degree pattern.

More research gave me a neat solution. A 9:1 Unun and a 'magic' wire length could give a low SWR on all HF bands, with minimal ATU help at my rig. Several specific lengths seem to create SWR dips at or near HF Ham bands. One of those magic lengths, 84 feet, would fit perfectly.

OK, pole up, wire in, radials down, LMR400 coax run. Picked up a Balun Designs unun with both 4:1 and 9:1 taps. Added a line isolator at the rig end. Beautifully made products from Balun Designs, by the way.

Plan was simple. Set unun for 9:1. Get a SWR meter, and adjust wire length for lowest reading on 80M. Other bands would fall into line with low SWRs, as several people told me. After cutting for 80M SWR bottom, I moved from 10M down on my RigXpert analyzer. The process seemed to be working. Then, I hit 40M and the SWR went to the meter limit of 10.

Strange! So I tried trimming the antenna length for minimum SWR at 40, and the HF bands all fell into line EXCEPT 80M. SWR was over 9:1. Huh?

People whom I had been getting advice from were confounded. I must have done something wrong, likely a simple mistake. I tried literally every possibility. More radials, shorter radials, isolate coax at the antenna end or the rig end. Tried other 'magic' lengths, 53 feet, 71 feet. I get the higher HF bands tuned OK. But, either I get 80 or I get 40 usable. Not both. Moved unun to 4:1, but that didn't help much.

I was just standing by the SpiderPole trying to figure out what I was forgetting. Then, the wind whipping through a neighbor's trees made what sounded like a laugh. Mother Nature was mocking me!

After working down every suggestion and idea, I just gave up. My solution? Bought a remote tuner and put at the antenna end of the coax. I can now tune any HF band with a low SWR. Tuner seems to work best with the unun in place and set at 4:1.

I am happy with my set up, but still wonder why MY antenna was the one that didn't follow the rules that worked for others?

'Revenge of Mother Nature', perhaps?

Wait, there is that noise in the trees again, it sounds like laughing...





# ***Court Rules Excessive Antenna Application Fees Violated Reasonable Accommodation***

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Long-pending Amateur Radio antenna litigation that ARRL helped to fund has finally borne fruit.

The Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division: Second Judicial Department has ruled in the case of Myles Landstein N2EHG, that the Town of LaGrange, New York, not only overstepped its state-granted authority by assessing excessive fees, but violated the limited federal preemption [PRB-1](#) in the process. PRB-1 requires municipalities and states to “reasonably” accommodate Amateur Radio antennas and to apply the “minimum practicable regulation” in handling Amateur Radio antenna applications. The ruling is slated to be published as a case decision. Landstein had wanted to erect a 70-foot antenna support structure; the Town of LaGrange has a 35-foot height limit.

“This case, which goes back to 2013, was about applying PRB-1 to a situation in which a municipality attempted to thwart the installation and maintenance of ham radio antennas by imposing excessive permit application costs on the ham applicant,” said communications attorney Chris Imlay W3KD, who is familiar with the case. Imlay said the FCC has refused to clarify the cost-prohibition issue as it relates to PRB-1’s “minimum practicable regulation” and reasonable accommodation provisions of PRB-1.

“The Town incurred more than \$17,000 in legal consulting fees in connection with [Landstein’s] applications, and informed the petitioner that he was required to reimburse the Town for these fees before any determination would be made with respect to the applications,” the court decision recounted. “The Town subsequently, as ‘an accommodation to the petitioner,’ reduced the amount...to...\$5,874, but also required the petitioner to maintain a minimum advance continuing escrow balance of at least \$1,000 to cover the Town’s future consulting costs...”

“We hold that, because the Town did not limit the consulting fees charged to the petitioner to those necessary to the decision-making function of the town’s Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, the town exceeded its state-granted authority by requiring payment of the consulting fees and, moreover, violated a rule promulgated by the [FCC],” the court concluded.

Given the significant delay, Imlay said both he and Landstein had lost hope that the case would ever be resolved in Landstein’s favor — and in the favor of radio amateurs in New York, generally — much less be a case that would “create favorable precedent for Amateur Radio.”

“ARRL originally was drawn to this case, because New York is the only state that, due to a very old case decision, has held that Amateur Radio antennas are not necessarily a “normal accessory use” to residential real property,” Imlay explained. “Because the issue in the case dealt with both that issue and the issue of cost prohibitions in the permitting process relative to the cost of the antenna installation, we decided to fund the case.” Landstein lost at trial, and an appeal was filed in about 2015, for which ARRL provided memoranda of law about the cost-prohibition issue. “The antenna at issue and the support structure was to cost no more than \$1,000,” Imlay said.

The court concluded that the town “may not use its land-use regulatory authority to construct ‘hoop after hoop’ for the petitioner to jump through in order to erect his radio antenna tower [and] cannot impose unreasonable expenses so as to create an insurmountable financial barrier to the pursuit of the project. In this context, not only must the consultant fees be reasonable..., but the underlying services must be necessarily related to those municipal regulatory functions which are not preempted by federal law.”



## ***ARRL Launching New Podcast Geared Towards New Hams***

For those just getting started on their Amateur Radio journey, ARRL is launching a new podcast aimed at answering your questions, providing support and encouragement for newcomers to get the most out of the hobby. The podcast “So Now What?” will launch on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, and new episodes will be posted every other Thursday, alternating new-episode weeks with the [“ARRL The Doctor is In”](#) podcast.

Co-hosting “So Now What?” will be ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode W3MVP, and ARRL Station Manager Joe Carcia NJ1Q. Presented as a lively conversation, with Patnode representing newer hams and Carcia the veteran operators, the podcast will explore questions that newer hams may have and the issues that keep participants from staying active in the hobby. Some episodes will feature guests to answer questions on specific topic areas.

Topics to be discussed in the first several episodes include getting started, operating modes available to Technician licensees, VEC and licensing issues, sunspots and propagation, mobile operating, contesting, Amateur Radio in pop culture, and perceptions of Technician license holders.

Given the growing popularity of podcasts, Isgur believes that providing this information in a podcast format will be a very effective method of reaching out and engaging this particular part of the Amateur Radio community, which is important for building and maintaining Amateur Radio interest and activity.

Listeners will be able to find the “So Now What?” podcast on [Apple iTunes](#), [Blubrry](#), or [Stitcher](#) (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices...or wherever you get your podcasts. Episodes will also be archived on the ARRL website.



## **Two Rivers ARC 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Hamfest**

**Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 8:00 AM—2:00 PM**

**The Spectrum**

**6001 Smithfield Street, Boston PA 15135**

**( Off of PA Route 48 near the city of McKeesport )**

**Talk-in on 146.730 — Mobile Check In 146.52**

**Admission \$5**

**More Information at <http://www.trarc.net>**

# Fake News, Bouvet Island Edition

Southgate ARC News Service, OPDX

London, England, January 28<sup>th</sup> – OPDX report that on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the **Rebel DX Group** posted strong messages (on their Facebook & Web pages) as well as a video about bogus news being reported on their planned operation to Bouvet Island.

Here are their following posts/press releases which have been edited (due to language):

From <https://www.facebook.com/rebeldxgroup>:

Be aware of all (lousy) news. Our vessel is not arrested. So far only us can arrest this ship as trip is paid in full. There is some Harbor fees overdue (This is up to Vessel owner - not a 3YØI team members) and will be paid by owners when ship is ready to go!

Now I will change my language to a "BIKER" way. You, small (pathetic people) who trying to torpedo our plans, sending emails to boat captain, talking stories from the moon or even from mars... We know very well who is doing that, and we will publish all this things when we come back from Bouvet. YES WE ARE GOING TO BOUVET and you will not stop us!

I will track you down very easy, as you have no idea who you dealing with. Then we will send you to hell on the very famous way. You will be very well known ham radio operator (s), remembered forever. Promise you!



From <https://www.rebeldxgroup.com>: 3YØI Preparations Continue (Video) They write emails to the Captain of our vessel. They spread hate, fake news and disinformation on Facebook, Twitter and other social media, even on a once upon a time reliable news source. They make fake spots and spread (garbage) on the Clusters. They talk among their Internet groups all the while spreading crap rumors saying our vessel has been "seized by authorities". They have no idea what our story is so they make stories up. They are clueless. They are trying to sabotage our project within the Ham Radio Community, and they are ALL full of (garbage).

We continue to save it all and we will publish their bogus info when the team returns from Bouvet. We are positive you will be stunned to learn who the saboteurs are. Supposed pillars of the Amateur Radio DX Community? NOT.

A short video from Dom 3Z9DX showing preparations continue on our vessel. <https://www.rebeldxgroup.com/3z9dx-zs.mp4>

From <https://bouvetoya.org/another-fake-news/>: ANOTHER FAKE NEWS

According to news circulated by some South African and Italian hams, 3YØI DXpedition has been postponed/canceled and our vessel - "Atlantic Tuna" - has been arrested at the Cape Town's shipyard due to unpaid port fees.

We do confirm these are fake news and we deny the above. We totally understand the magnitude of interest in our project as it regards DXCC #2.

But before re-posting any 3<sup>rd</sup> party news (even so-called "breaking news") regarding our expedition, please verify them. We cannot take any responsibility for fake news and one more time - beware of unverified information sources.

Should any important changes or/and updates come to the 3YØI DXpedition, we will publish them at our websites and social media channels asap.

There is one more posting dated January 25<sup>th</sup> which is way too long to publish, but interesting. It is called "Our Rebel Advice To You..." and can be viewed at: <https://www.rebeldxgroup.com/our-rebel-advice-to-you>

Nothing else to report this week and no other details. Departure dates are still not known. It is still a mystery...

Remember, it takes 12 days to get to Bouvet from South Africa, and they plan to stay on the island for at least 2 weeks if the weather cooperates.

The 3YØI DXpedition's band plan - frequencies (160-6m) and modes (CW/SSB/FT8) can be found at:

<https://www.rebeldxgroup.com>

<https://bouvetoya.org/3yoi-bandplan>

QSL via ClubLog's QQRS (preferred), LoTW or via 3Z9DX.

## DX News Briefs



The next **T2AR** mini-DXpedition is planned for mid-February 2019. Focus will be on low bands (including 160m), with QRO. Only paper logs used, no systematic LoTW. **T2AT** will be a dedicated station for FT8Digimode QSOs will be uploaded to QRZ.com after the expedition. QSL via 3D2AG.

LA1QH will be QRV as **JW1QH** 8-11 February, 'holiday-style' primarily on 80 and 20 meter SSB. QSL via LA1QH.

**FY/DK9PY** will be QRV from 8 – 17 February, HF, including the ARRL DX CW Contest. QSL via DK9PY.

**C5DX** will be QRV 9 – 16 February, operated by staff and students from the MØSCY school ARC. This will be a first-time DXpedition for the students, so it is asked that operators be patient with them as they learn! QSL via G4DJX

SM3UQK will be QRV as **OX/SE3A** 9 – 21 February, 20 and 40 meters. More information at <https://www.qrz.com/db/OX/SE3A> QSL via SM3UQK

**PJ7/VA3QSL** will be QRV 10 - 15 February 10, 'holiday-style', 40 to 6 meter using CW, SSB and digital. QSL via VA3QSL.

A 15-man team will again be QRV as **XX9D** 11 – 26 February 26, 160 to 6 meter using CW, SSB and digital modes with 5 stations. More information at <https://xx9d.mydx.de/>. Log search on Club Log. QSL via DL4SVA

**PJ5/N6YEU** will be QRV 11 – 19 February, 40 to 15 meters, CW and SSB, including the ARRL DX CW Contest. QSL via N6YEU.

K8BKM will be QRV as **TO8T** from **FM** Martinique 12 – 19 February 12, including the ARRL DX CW contest. QSL via K8BKM  
KK4WW & KK4WWW will be QRV as **J79WW** & **J79USA**. 12 – 19 February, mostly on 20 meter. QSL via N4USA.

**6Y/GØRNU** will be QRV from the 6Y5NZ QTH 12 – 26 February, "all bands" depending on propagation and other activities. QSL via GØRNU

**V3T** will be QRV 16 – 17 February during the ARRL DX CW contest. V31AT, V31IT & V31TP will be operator calls outside the contest. QSL V3T via WCØW

**9U4RI** will be QRV 15 – 25 February, 40 – 10, CW & SSB. QSL via MØKRI

HB9HFD will be QRV as **D44TAQ** 17 – 22 February, 40 – 10, primarily digi modes. QSL via HB9HFD

**FK/JG1XMV** will be QRV 23 February – 10 March from OC-032 & OC-033. QRV 40 – 16 SSB. QSL via JG1XMV

**A5A** will be QRV 27 February – 9 March. QSL via JH1AJT

The EIDX Group will be QRV as **5V8EI** 14 – 26 March, 160 – 10, CW SSB & Digital modes. More information at <https://5v7ei.com/>. QSL via MØOXO

## QSL Routes

3B9VB via UA4WHX	DL7ØAFUG via DM4EA	OX/SE3A via SM3UQK
3D2JS via WB2TJO	DR1D via DL3KO	P4ØE via K9QVB
3D2RK via N2OO	EA9/DL2JRM via DL2JRM	PJ4Z via K4BAI
3W1T via XV1X	ED8W via OM5RW	PJ4P via DJ5BWD
5X3C via I2YSB	FG8OJ via F4AVX	RA76SK via UC4A
5X3E via I2YSB	H31A via HP1AVS	S7ØVB via UA4WHX
7P8LB via MØØXO	H33J via JA1HGY	SN15ØEL via SP1KRF
8P1W via KU9C	HBØ/DL5SE via DL5SE	SN5B via SP5SSB
8P5A via HA1AG	HB9ØBRU via HB9BRU	TKØC via S5ØC
A21EME via PA3CMC	HC5MWT via K5YG	TM39PVJ via F8GGZ
A35A via N2OO	HF32SDM via SP7PGK	TO2BC via DL7BC
A35RK via N2OO	J2ØDX via MØSDV	UE76MS via UE76MS
A5A via JH1AJT	J42L via SV2DCD	V31GV via W2AIV
C6AGU via HA7RY	JW1QH via LA1QU	V31UX via IKØFUX
CR3DX via OM3RM	K1HP/KH2 via JE2EHP	V47UR via W3UR
CT9ABR via OZ2I	K5C via W5NAC	VYØERC via MØOXO
DAØDIG via DH1PAL	KH8/KK6H via N2OO	XV9FUD via SP2FUD
DF13DEJU via DM2TO	LZ391MW via LZ1KCP	XV9ZT via SP2GCJ
	OS8A via ON8VK	

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News Reflector, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, DX Coffee, DX World.Net, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our **DX News** information. Thanks also to the ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR /The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.





## WASH Classifieds

Information shown here is as supplied to the **WASHRag**. Condition as stated, and all sales should be considered "as-is" unless otherwise noted. All subject to prior sale or withdrawal from sale at the owner's discretion. All responsibility for this information lies with the source and not the **WASHRag** or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

### HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES, INC.

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Lazaroff & Suhr, Attorneys at Law

277 West Main Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056

Phone: 724-352-4905

The **WASHRag** Masthead is courtesy of Jeff Murray K1NSS, creator of DASHToons & Dash the Dog Faced Ham!!

Find the online cartoons and stories of Dash the Dogfaced Ham & more at <https://www.jeffk1nss.com> !

Shop for Dash items at his online store on Café Press, [www.cafepress.com/shopdash](http://www.cafepress.com/shopdash)



US Amateurs by Class as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019:

Novice	9,995
Technician	414,867
General	188,711
Advanced	44,658
Extra	153,264
Club	12,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>824,159</b>

All-Time High      02/01/2019      824,159

Last 90 Days:	New Amateurs	6,601
	Callsign Changes	2,066
	Class Changes	2,591
	No Longer Licensed	4,610
	All Updates (*)	25,731

(\*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of [Hamdata.com](http://Hamdata.com)



## FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator said today that the FCC has begun processing Amateur Radio applications for the first time since early January, when it shut down because of the lapse in funding.

"The FCC worked through its backlog very quickly, and started processing our files about noon today," Assistant ARRL VEC Manager Amanda Grimaldi N1NHL said on Wednesday. "We're slowly submitting the files we have in queue — we don't want to bombard them! Assuming there are no hiccups, everyone should see their applications processed by the close of business on Thursday."

The ARRL VEC had piled up some 2700 pending Amateur Radio applications, many of them from 425 ARRL VEC examination sessions that took place during the shutdown or immediately prior to it. These do not include files that the other 13 VECs may have ready to upload to the FCC.

The FCC now officially has its full complement of five members. Democrat Geoffrey Starks, who succeeds Mignon Clyburn on the Commission, was sworn in January 30. He formerly served as assistant bureau chief in the FCC Enforcement Bureau and in the US Department of Justice.

"I am deeply honored to serve as a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, and I thank the President and the United States Senate for this exceptional privilege." Starks said in a statement. "As the last few weeks have affirmed, being a public servant is a calling to serve a mission bigger than yourself. Throughout my career, I have focused on protecting the most vulnerable and holding wrongdoers accountable. In my new role, I shall not only continue to pursue those goals, but also look forward to working with Congress, my fellow Commissioners, and the FCC's outstanding staff." Starks, who holds a law degree from Yale, said that every community "has a stake in the future of communications in this country, and all have the right to be heard. I will always be listening."

Republican Brendan Carr, who already was sitting on the Commission after appointment to an unexpired term, recently was reconfirmed for a new full 5-year term. Three of the FCC's five members are traditionally of the same political party as the President.

## AVVid Going QRT

Mabank, TX, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 – "After 38 years of repairing amateur radio equipment, and being over 70 years old, the fire has about gone out. My wife and I have decided to take an extended sabbatical and see some of this great country of ours.

**To this end we will not accept repairs after February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

All radios received before that date will be repaired and returned to the owners. The 30 day warranty will remain in effect.

We have both enjoyed what we have been doing and have the best customers in the world.

I will continue to provide help via the internet and limited phone help during our extended sabbatical.

This fall we will re-evaluate and determine the next step.

I appreciate your understanding."

73, Cliff Holland KA5IPF & Millie Holland W5AUX

If you've downloaded the **WASHRag** from the N3SH web site, or picked up a copy from a friend... you can sign up to have the PDF copy sent directly to your email. You **do NOT** have to be a member of **WASH!**

Just send an email to [wa3sh-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:wa3sh-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) and the automation should take care of the rest!

**Has Roadway found the tower yet?**

## 2019 is the U.S. Islands Awards Program's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

USI is offering a special, 25th Anniversary award for both chasers and activators running from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

Chasers: Confirm 25 islands during 2019, as a club or individual.

Activators: Qualify or Activate a total of 25 islands in any combination. A minimum of 15 QSOs must be made for both a new island qualification and an island activation to be considered for this award. This can be issued to a club call, (multiple members under one call) or individual.

Under our honor system, send the **Award Chairmen NS4J** a list of confirmed or activated islands. The list should include, Name, Call, address, email, USI number, island name, date worked or activated, Call used or worked.

All the USI rules and awards can be found at [usislands.org](http://usislands.org)



# WASHfest 2019

The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **TWENTY FOURTH** big year!  
Sponsored by the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

**Home Economics Building, South Park**

3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park Township, PA 15129

Behind the Allegheny County Police Station on Brownsville Road

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL

Donation \$5



**(800) 545-8881**

Breakfast & Lunch will be available!



*FREE Coffee for the entire Hamfest  
courtesy of HAM RADIO INSURANCE ASSOCIATES  
of Canonsburg, PA*

## MAIN PRIZES — You've Got to Play to WIN!



First Prize: ICOM-7300 100 W HF+6M Transceiver  
Second Prize: Comet Antennas CAA-500 Mark II Antenna Analyzer  
Third Prize: Buddipole Whip

**Additional Hourly Door Prizes! 2 Special Black Box Prizes (Separate Drawing)!**

Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20

**All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes**

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 [n3sbf@comcast.net](mailto:n3sbf@comcast.net)

E-mail us directly at [washarc@yahoo.com](mailto:washarc@yahoo.com) Check out our website too! [www.n3sh.org](http://www.n3sh.org)

**Please Note:** Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Reservations received after February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 must include payment in full. Reserve now... we have sold out in advance nine years running!

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Tables WITH Electricity: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**5 Or More** Tables w/o: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to:  
**WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS**  
PLEASE MAIL RESERVATION TO:  
**WASHFEST 2019**  
c/o CAROL DANKO KB3GMN  
4246 Seton Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15227-1244

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!





# WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

## Membership Application, New or Renewal



I would like to join WASH! I am interested in the following type of membership: ☐ **New Membership** ☐ **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter  
(check one)) →

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

☐ (FM1) Family Membership (\$3.00 x No. of household family members): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

New Members Only:

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires On: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Family ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*N3RDV has requested that all membership requests and renewals include an application so that his information is up to date*

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.  
The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.  
Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.  
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer  
1120 McKnight Drive  
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



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Send an email to [bernie@dailydx.com](mailto:bernie@dailydx.com) or go to [www.dailydx.com](http://www.dailydx.com)

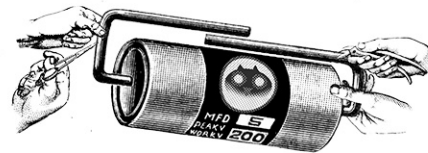
The Daily DX, 3025 Hobbs Road,  
Glenwood, MD 21738 Phone: 301-854-5650



**Arghh!**  
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?



**HANDMADE BY GNOMES.**

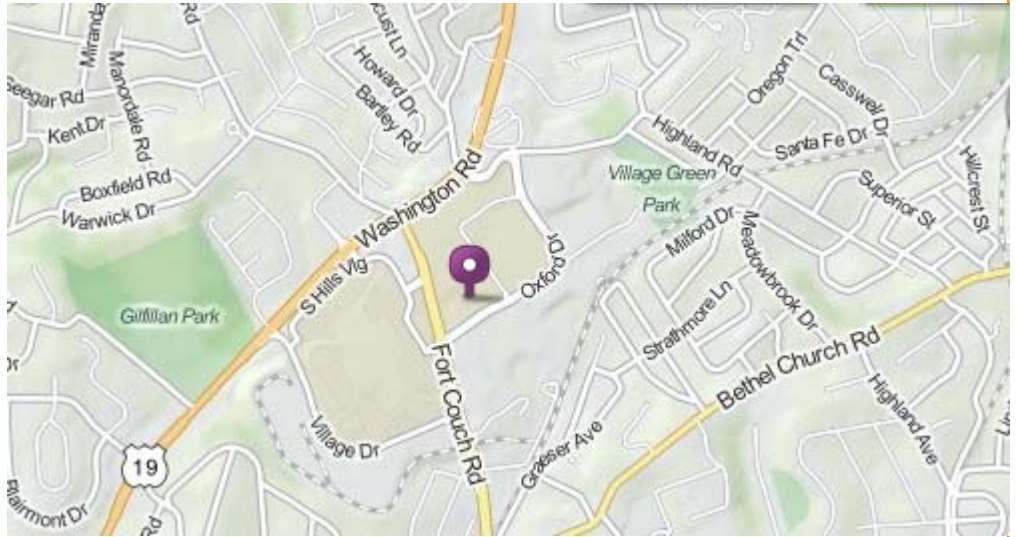
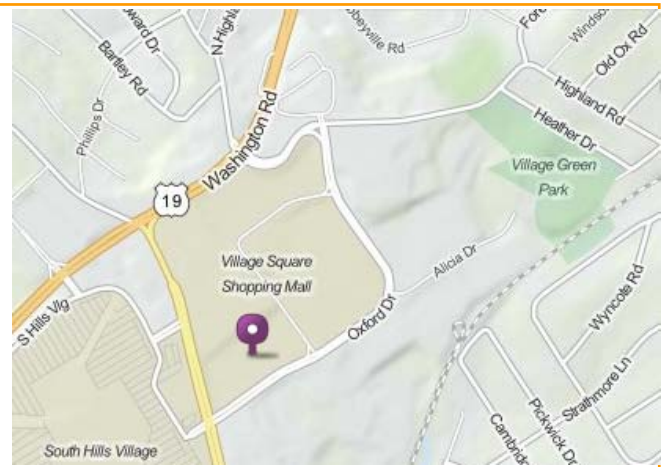


# 2019 WASH Meeting Location

## St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room

2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102

Adjacent to Village Square Mall, across Ft. Couch Road from  
South Hills Village Mall, just off of US Route 19



## The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



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